

**REGULAR MEETING - WEDNESDAY AT 5:00 P.M.**

The Switzerland County Council met in regular session pursuant to law and by being duly advertised.

Those present: council members: Elizabeth Jones, Lisa Fisher, Mike Bear, Andy Haskell, Glenn Scott, Rachel Schuler, John Gary Welch and auditor Gayle Rayles.

The meeting was opened at 5:00 p.m. by president, Elizabeth Jones, with the pledge of allegiance.

The minutes of the July 17, 2018 regular meeting were approved as presented on a motion by Lisa; seconded by Mike and all agreed.

**#1 Sarah Brichto - Opportunity Zone Update**

Sarah gave the council an overview of the opportunity zones. The federal government has designated distressed zones for a tax incentive. There are 156 zones in the State of Indiana. The east side of Switzerland County is one of the zones. The closest to us is Franklin County. This is an opportunity for investors to put money into real estate, businesses and improvements and avoid capital gains taxes over a period of time.

**#2 Additional Appropriation Ordinances**

The following additional appropriation ordinances were approved on a motion by Andy, seconded by Lisa and all agreed.

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE**

WHEREAS, it has been determined that it is now necessary to appropriate more money than was appropriated in the annual budget:

SEC. 1 BE IT ORDAINED by the County Council of Switzerland County, Indiana that for expenses of said municipal corporation, the following additional sums of money are hereby appropriated and ordered set apart out of several funds herein named and for the purposes herein specified, subject to the laws governing the same:

<b>COUNTY GENERAL FUND (1000)</b>		<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
		<b>REQUESTED</b>	<b>APPROVED</b>
<i>RECORDER</i>			
300	OTHER SERVICES/CHARGES		
	4364 COPIER CONTRACTS	\$ 101.76	_____
<i>EMA</i>			
400	CAPITAL OUTLAY		
	4411 RADIO EQUIPMENT	\$ 2360.00	_____
<b>TOTAL COUNTY GENERAL FUND</b>		<b>\$ 2461.76</b>	<b>_____</b>

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Additional Appropriation Ordinances cont'd

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<b>CUM CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT FUND (1139)</b>	<b>AMOUNT REQUESTED</b>	<b>AMOUNT APPROVED</b>
4000 MISCELLANEOUS		
4900 MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES	\$115000.00	_____
5000 MAINTENANCE/REPAIRS		
5200 CO BLDG MAINTENANCE	\$ 57000.00	_____
<b>TOTAL CUM CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT FUND</b>	<b>\$172000.00</b>	<b>_____</b>

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE**

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SEC. 1 BE IT ORDAINED by the County Council of Switzerland County, Indiana that for expenses of said municipal corporation, the following additional sums of money are hereby appropriated and ordered set apart out of several funds herein named and for the purposes herein specified, subject to the laws governing the same:

<b>LOCAL HEALTH MAINTENANCE FUND (1139)</b>	<b>AMOUNT REQUESTED</b>	<b>AMOUNT APPROVED</b>
200 SUPPLIES		
4212 SCREENING SUPPLIES	\$ 1100.00	_____
<b>TOTAL LOCAL HEALTH MAINTENANCE FUND</b>	<b>\$ 1100.00</b>	<b>_____</b>

**#3 Other Business**

- a) Redevelopment Board Appointment: There were three applications for the position open on the redevelopment board: Joey Rider, Dr. Ivan Green, and Richard Yanikoski.

Itsy opened the floor for nominations. Lisa nominated Ivan Green and Andy nominated Joey Rider

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Other Business cont'd

Redevelopment Board Appointment cont'd: Glenn felt that the council should have had some time to look at the applications. After some discussion, he made a motion to table the decision until the September meeting; Andy seconded the motion and all agreed. Gayle is to scan and email the applications to all council members. No additional applications will be accepted since the deadline to apply has passed. Elizabeth will ask the two applicants who only submitted a statement of interest to provide resumes. The two current nominations remain on the floor to be voted on at the September meeting.

- b) Non-Binding Reviews: Jacque Clements, with AIC explained that units, such as the schools and trustees, budget requests are provided to the Council for their review only. There is no action for them to take. She provided a spreadsheet with the levy and circuit breaker information. The Council reviewed the information and directed the Auditor, Gayle Rayles to send a copy of the approved minutes to each of the units.

Jacque said that there will likely be proposed legislation regarding township in 2019 so this procedure may change in the future.

- c) 2019 Budget: The following department heads were asked to attend the meeting for questions regarding their 2019 budgets:
- Health Dept. - Donna Faber: The department's budget shows a \$46,000.00 deficit. Donna, and board member Robert Findley, worked on projected expenses for next year and have several areas where the requests can be reduced. Donna will email the changes to Gayle so she can revise their budget report.
  - Reassessment - Joan Armstrong and Stacey Matthews: The issue was the addition of a part-time employee being added into the General Fund budget in 2019. There is also a part-time employee in the Reassessment budget. The department agreed to remove the one in the General Fund. Stacey said that, since she will be new to the Assessor's position next year, she may need to ask for the additional help but for now she is fine with the change.
  - Nurse Managed Clinic: No one was available from the clinic. They are out of town for training.
  - Animal Shelter: No one was present from the shelter.
  - Recorder - Nancy Barker: Nancy agreed to remove the \$1,200.00 for repair and rebind from her 2019 budget. This expense can come out of her Records Perpetuation fund.
  - Circuit Court - Judge Coy: Judge Coy said that Gayle had contacted him about reductions and he offered to reduce the two public defender salaries by \$2,500.00 each and the pauper attorney line item by \$5,000.00 for a total of \$10,000.00.

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Other Business cont'd

2019 Budget cont'd: Gayle explained that she and Jacque Clements had worked on the budget to try to trim it. The loss of approximately \$250,000.00 in 2018 and \$300,000.00 in 2019 from Jail revenue has caused the need for reductions. In spite of the large amount we are over our maximum levy, there are several things that can be done to make it possible for the council to present a budget under the maximum levy and still give raises in 2019.

- All departments can review their budgets for the remainder of 2018. If there are line items that they know have significantly more money remaining than they are likely to spend in the next five months, the county can do an official budget reduction for 2018. Jacque cautioned that this is not something you would do for a small reduction (\$50.00 or \$100.00) but more substantial amounts.
- All departments can review their history to see if the 2019 budgets are logical. In many cases the amounts are what has always been asked for and rarely used or only a small portion used. Jacque said these reductions, no matter how small, all add up.
- There was a discussion on the decision to stop housing prisoners from other counties in our jail. Hiring additional jailers and capacity were discussed. Gayle asked Luanne Schaefer, jail commander, if she would be willing to put together some figures on what the income would be if we had five inmates from other counties for an entire year and what the cost of two additional jailers would be so some logic could be applied to future plans.
- There was a discussion on the Emergency Response budget. Gayle said there is no need to be concerned about their budget. Their 2019 budget is in the black and history shows that this is very likely going to be the case.
- Josh said that SCER has almost \$500,000.00 in aging accounts. In spite of that, they are still able to cover all of their expenses. He explained that we do soft billing, with no collection agency pursuing those who don't pay. Jacque told him about a new program thru the AIC that would allow us to intercept Indiana tax refunds and lottery winnings for county owed debt. This has been done by the state and universities and now, with new legislation, is available to counties. There are a few things that need to be done in order to start the process. The commissioners will be looking into this.

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Other Business cont'd

2019 Budget cont'd:

- Gayle said that in the past the raises were decided upon after all of the budget numbers are in. She said she would like to be able to build the raises into the numbers for the next meeting. This would present a more accurate picture for everyone. She asked for confirmation that there will be raises and, if so, what rate she could use. There was a discussion that concluded with the use of 3%. Mike brought up pay increases for EMR. After a brief discussion, it was decided that the same percentage would be applied to their payroll.
  
- Gayle said that she will be sending out budget information for 2018 and 2019 to all of the departments asking for their 2018 reductions and 2019 changes. She acknowledged that some departments have such small budgets that no reductions can be made. She is asking that the revisions be returned to her by Friday, August 17<sup>th</sup>.

There being no further business to come before council, Andy made a motion to adjourn; Lisa seconded and all agreed. The meeting adjourned at 6:49 p.m.

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Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
**Gayle A. Rayles, Auditor**  
**Switzerland County, Indiana**